

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve a more active give and take on the licensee's service in the public interest.

In general, the FCC has not been enforcing broadcasting in the public interest. This is too important. If Sinclair wants to acknowledge the bias that is one thing. If they want to sell the video or air in movie theatres they should do so. But the airwaves are MINE and I want to take them back!